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RCE/27w

**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

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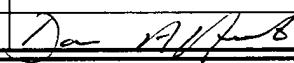
| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Application Number</i> | 10/771,391 |
| <i>Filing Date</i> | February 5, 2004 |
| <i>First Named Inventor</i> | Kozo SHIMIZU et al. |
| <i>Art Unit</i> | 2812 |
| <i>Examiner Name</i> | Lynne A. Gurley |
| <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> | 042080 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 | | Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s). | |
| <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.</p> <p>ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on</p> <p>iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> | | | |
| <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enclosed</p> <p>i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply</p> <p>ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)</p> <p>iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)</p> <p>iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> | | | |
| 2. Miscellaneous | | | |
| <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of ___ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> | | | |
| 3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when RCE is filed. | | | |
| <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check in the amount of <u>\$910.00</u> enclosed</p> <p>i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) - (\$790)</p> <p>ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) - (\$120)</p> <p>iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> | | | |
| <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees in connection with filing of this paper or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. <u>50-2866</u>. 02/06/2006 JADD01 00000044 10771391</p> | | | |
| <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) 01 FC:1801 730.00 OP</p> | | | |
| <p>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p> | | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Darrin A. Auito | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 56,024 |
| Signature |  | | |
| Date | February 3, 2006 | | |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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|-------------------|--|
| Name (Print/Type) | |
| Signature | |
| Date | |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.